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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner has:

1. rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 24 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,307,302 (hereinafter '302 patent); and
2. objected to claim 27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim;

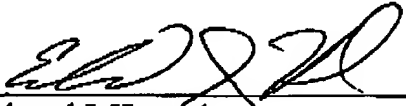
In response to Item 1, Applicant notes Examiner's statement on page 3 of the Final Office Action (mailing date of 1/7/04) that "If applicant provides the "certification of correction" to overcome the double patenting rejection, the final rejection will be withdrawn." Accordingly, Applicant has attached herewith a copy of the "as-filed" petition for correction of the '302 patent to remedy this error by the Patent Office. Wherefore, claims 26-27 as appearing in the present application are not subject to 35 U.S.C. 101 double patenting and should be allowed. Removal of this rejection and allowance of these claims is requested.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the above-identified application, Applicants' undersigned Attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at 609-919-4428.

Respectfully Submitted

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